

MAY

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2024



Slide Images From Library of Congress Digital Collections

**Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and
roll-over effects**

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Events

The Magic Lantern Calendar –May 2024

May 3, 2024, **A Victorian Magic Lantern Show**, a theatrical demonstration of Victorian magic lantern slides with Joel Schlemowitz and Madeline Mulkey, on the lawn of the Walton Young House, University of Mississippi Museum, University Ave and 5th Street, Oxford, MS 38655

May 3, 2024, **Entertainment and Traditional Culture in Old Houses – Nishiki Kag-e Project 2**, a workshop for new magic lantern artists, who will give a short performance at the old folk house and at a museum in Suita City in November. <https://kyu-uedakejutaku.jp/img/UMLP2024.gif>

May 4, 2024, **Melissa Ferrari's Magic Lantern Spectacular**, jaw-dropping showcase of the earliest animation and timeless magic, with puppets, Bob Baker Marionette Theater, 4949 York Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90042

May 9, 2024, **Magic Lantern Show**, with live piano by renowned magic lantern performers Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, featuring an authentical triunial magic lantern, The Peltz Gallery, Birkbeck, School of arts, 43 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PD, UK

May 11, 2024, **Magic Lantern Show**, Meeting Room One, Leongatha Memorial Hall, 6-8 McCartin Street, Leongatha VIC 3953 Australia

May 11, 2024, **Magic Lanterns and More – Auction**, Auction Team Breker, <https://auction-team.de/highlights-11-may-2024/>

May 16-19, 2024, Columbia Diggins at Columbia State Historic Park, Columbia, CA.

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24249

May 18, 2024, **The Shakleton 150 convention**, In his own words and pictures: Hussey's magic lantern show, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR, UK

May 24, 2024, **Folk Talks – A Titanic Magic Lantern Show**, using original lantern plates and vintage equipment – a titanic magic lantern show since its sinking in April 1912, The Folk of Gloucester, Bishop Hooper's House, 99-101 Westgate Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 2PG UK.

May 29, 2024, **Magical Magic Lanterns**, create your own magic lantern slides out of tracing paper, cardboard, and imagination; then project using a hundred-year-old magic lantern, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3RX, UK.

June 15-16, 2024, **Turbulent Times: A Summer Excursion to the Netherlands**, special meeting of the Magic Lantern Society (UK), Magic Lantern Museum, Scheveningen, Den Haag, Netherlands. Registration deadline May 16, limited to 50 participants turbulent-times@mAGIClantern.org.uk

June 22, 2024, **Steampunk at Strathearn**. Simi Valley California

July 13 & 14, 2024, **The Art of the Magic Lantern**, exhibit and performances, Lyceum of History and Natural Sciences, 307 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060. Proposals due February 15.

Aug. 27, 2024, **BOEM! Or Experimental media archaeological reflections on re-enactment and ‘crazy’ avant-garde performances as part of media history**, lecture by Annie van den Oever, Antwerp Summer School Arts & Media Archaeology, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

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The Magic Lantern Calendar –May 2024

Sept. 19-21, 2024 **Magic Lantern Convention:** Bringing the Magic to Movieland, Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA <https://www.magiclanternsociety.org/2024-convention/>

Oct. 27, 2024, **The Magic Lantern**, The Prince Albert, Rodborough Hill, Stroud, England, GL5, UK.

Dec. 15, 2024, **A Family Edwardian Christmas at Lauriston Castle**, includes a traditional magic lantern show, Lauriston Castle, 2a Cramond Road South, Edinburgh, Scotland EH4 5QD UK

Exhibits

Through May 12, 2024, **We Stare at the Light**, Yuki Hayashi showcases recent and new works, including a piece titled “Space and time” using a magic lantern illuminated by candlelight to project images, Gallery Parc, 2F Horikawa New Culture Bldg., 287 Saikachi-cho, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 602-8242 Japan.

July 11 – Sept 28, 2024, **The Art of the Magic Lantern**, Burlington County Workers House gallery, Historic Smithville Park, 803 Smithville Rd, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060.

Jul 13-14, 2024, “**The Art of The Magic Lantern**” exhibit, Eastampton New Jersey. This event will have Terry Borton, Matt Schnittker, Melissa Ferrari, Joel Schlemowitz, Larry Rakow, and others!

Through Aug. 10, 2024, **Magic Lanterns**, an immersive exhibit containing luminous prints and projections of astronomical and astrological imagery sources from 1860s magic lantern slides, University of Mississippi Museum, University Ave and 5th Street, Oxford, MS 38655

Through Oct. 31, 2024, **Exhibition: Collection, tell us a story, stories** through time, dimensions and space, in the world of the magic lantern, Musee de la Loire, Place de la Resistance, 58200 Cosne-Cours-Sur-Loire, France

Through Dec. 29. 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildwelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Online

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tboron@magiclanternshows.com

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids’ Page. [www.magiclanternmuseum.com](http://magiclanternmuseum.com)

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.

Call For Proposals

**September 19-21, 2024
The Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA, USA**



Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada 2024 Conference

The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada invites you to submit a proposal to our 2024 conference.. Our theme for 2024 is “Bringing the Magic to Movieland”

Who can present?

You! Anyone with a relevant topic such as collectors, researchers, students, hobbyists, and entertainers are all welcome. You do not need to be a member of the society to propose a presentation.

Typical Topics

Typical presentation topics include original research regarding magic lanterns, slides, showmen, showmanship, show re-enactments, and newly created shows. For 2024, we're especially encouraging performances using magic lanterns, shadow puppets, projection mapping and related performances involved in light and shadow work, and presentations that tie to the convention theme.

Proposal Deadlines

- Proposals must be received no later than July 1, 2024.
- You will be notified if your talk was accepted by the end of July 2024.
- Conference Workshops will happen on Thursday, September 19th.
- Conference presentations will be Friday/Saturday September 20th and 21st.

Although we would very much like to accommodate all applicants; please understand that due to the number and types of presentation proposals received, it may not be possible to accept all proposals at this Convention.

Presenters are encouraged to register and join us for all the Convention events. Presenters who do not register for the convention are welcome to attend all the daytime presentations on the day of their presentation as a guest of the Society. Presenters who do not register for the Convention and wish to attend additional day(s) and/or evening events are requested to purchase a day pass(es) and/or tickets as necessary..

Submit Your Talk Today!

We welcome all presentations that further the stated purposes of the Society:

1. To support and promote education through exhibitions and shows, or other suitable means, that inform the public about the history and development of magic lanterns, lantern slides, related material, and their methods of use.
2. To support the collecting, preservation, researching, cataloging, restoration, and care of magic lanterns, lantern slides, and related material, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Audience

Audience: The audience is primarily members of the Society and typical numbers range from between 50-80 at presentations. The public and guests are invited.

Brian Rogers
411 Discovery Road, Port Townsend WA
98368
(907) 460-0969 cell



Board of Directors Nominations

The Society is soliciting nominations for Board members to serve the 2024-2026 term. Nominations will be accepted by Secretary-Treasurer and ballots will be issued to all members of record later this summer before the Convention. Votes will be counted and results announced at the 2024 Convention.

If you have any questions regarding this process or the commitment of being a Board member, please contact any of the current Board members.

Current Board Members are: Ron Easterday, David Evans, Karl Link, Brian Rogers, and Matt Schnittker. Our Bylaws call for a Board of between 3 and 9 members, as determined by a resolution of the elected Board. We welcome the opportunity of new faces and diversity to our Board.

**Please email your nominations by Monday, July 1, 2024
Hard copy mailings are to be postmarked
by Monday, June 24, 2024**

By email: rleasterday@comcast.net

USPS: Ron Easterday 20382 12 th Ave NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Phone: (360) 516-8973

All nominees will be confidential until contacted and verified they are willing to serve if elected.

Remember you can nominate yourself if you are willing to serve!
Please consider helping your Society operate smoothly.



Correction to April E-pub

From Karl Link

Larry,

Thank you for including the Cologne Univ. notice in the epub on such short notice. On another note, Bernd Scholze has contacted me saying that the link in the April e-pub to the Hessenpark brochure is not working, so people cannot link onto the brochure.

Thanks,
Karl

From Larry Cederblom

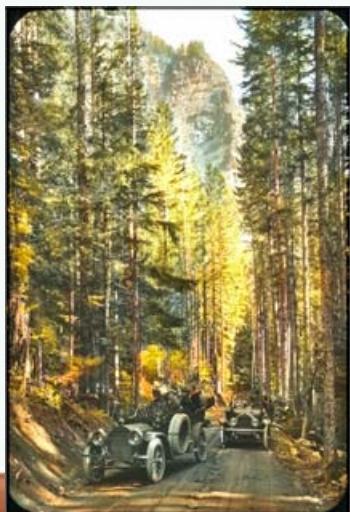
The link did not work because the link in the notice was modified so it could not be used in another publication. If you highlight and copy the link below and paste in your browser you will be able to see the PDF.

<https://www.hessenpark.de/wp-content/uploads/Ausstellungsbrochüre-Laterna-Magica-2024-Web.pdf>



April 6 Magic Lantern Society Display table at the Puget Sound Photo Collectors show in Kent WA

April 17 Set up for the Model T Club meeting and show by Larry Cederblom, also some of the car related slide images that were shown.



Sherry, Brian and Ron ready to perform at the 2024 Port Townsend Victorian Festival April 26

Restore Mirroscope

From Loren Shultz

0591eojl@gmail.com

Just acquired my first Mirroscope.

I'm thinking of some level of restoration. Rewiring is an obvious need but I have two questions please .

1. The "mirrors" are damaged. Will they work to any extent as-is or is re-silvering needed for any degree of function?
2. If mirrors okay, any idea light bulb wattage?

Thank you
Loren Shultz

Bless you!

I am never surprised when an on-line inquiry brings no response at all, or some automatic response which doesn't address the question or request.

I ever so pleasantly surprised and pleased to get your response, prompt, highly informational, and polite.

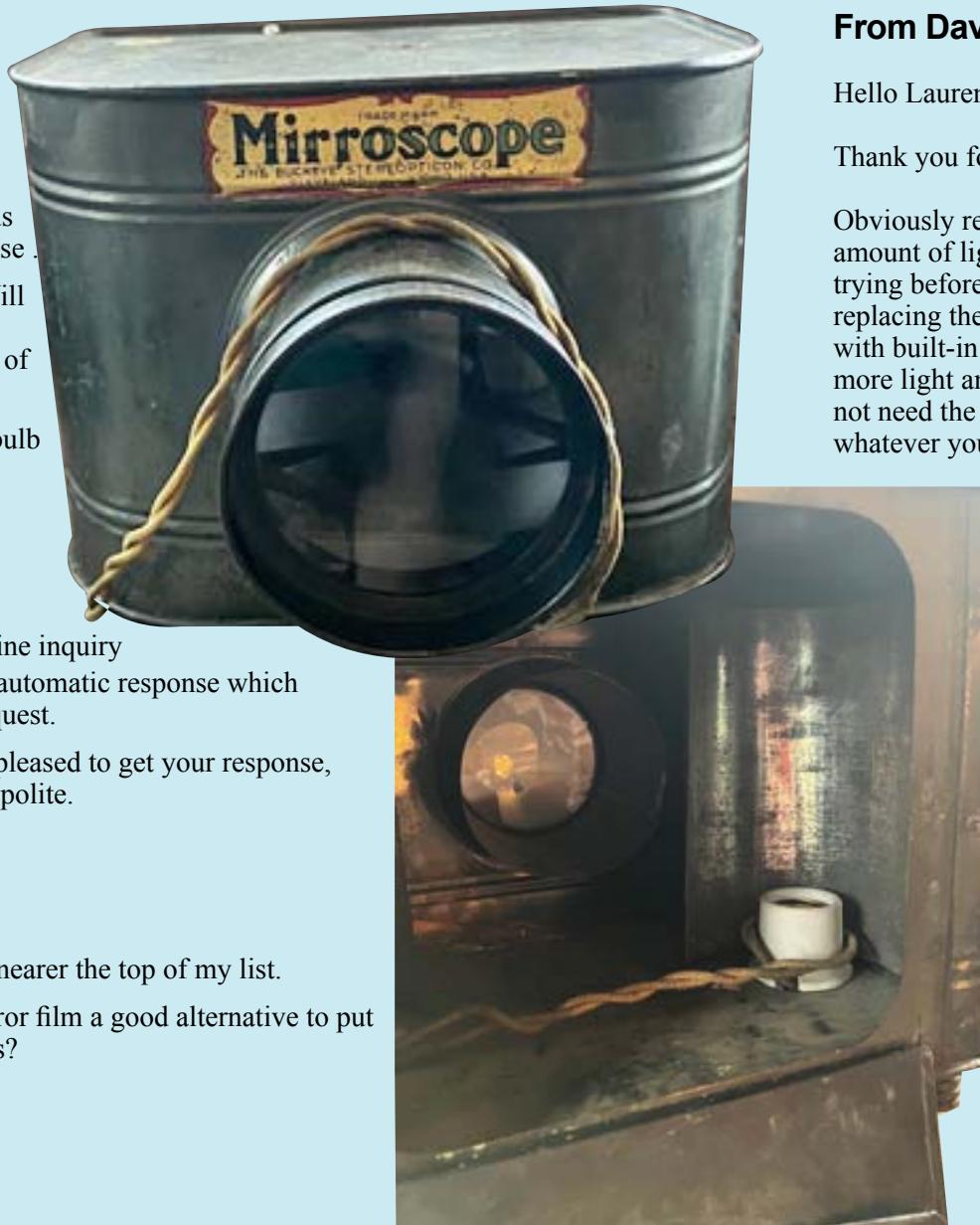
Thank you ever so much!

LJS
Hello again David

Mirroscope restoration is getting nearer the top of my list.

Quick question please. . . . is mirror film a good alternative to put over the damaged original surfaces?

Thank you
Loren Shultz



From David Evans

Hello Lauren

Thank you for contacting us.

Obviously re-silvering them will increase the amount of light reaching the image, but worth trying before you do that. You might consider replacing the lamps with modern LED lamps with built-in reflectors, as they will produce more light and virtually no heat and you may not need the mirrors at all. Bear in mind that, whatever you do, you won't get a very bright

image on the screen. These were meant for projecting postcard size images, and were meant to be quite close to the screen, so not a very big image will be projected.

If you do try household-type lamps, if filament type, it would be best not to exceed about 40 Watts each, though you probably can't buy these in stores any more. You could try the LED replacements, but probably won't do the job very well.

Let us know how you get on.

David Evans

continued next page

Restore Mirroscope continued

I am always pleased to receive requests - sometimes I or one of our members may come up with something useful!

It occurs to me that maybe some of the modern Quartz Halogen lamps could be used - some work from 115 volts and could have whatever holders they need to be fitted where the screw-in bulb holders are at present. Try not to do any permanent modifications though - it is always a good idea to be able to return it to original if your experiment didn't turn out too well!

As I said, do let me know how you get on - I am also the editor of the Society's Magic Lantern Gazette, and maybe we could do an article about your trials.

Hello Lauren

To be effective mirror film would need to be as wrinkle-free as possible. Certainly worth a try!

Regards

David



The Prodigal Son Set

The Prodigal Son (1893) in colors

From Sam Grosdemange

samgrosdemange@gmail.com

Many thanks all,
Sam.

We are using biblical slides in our magic lantern shows and we are always aiming to improve the quality of our shows. If you have any such slides, please feel free to contact us.

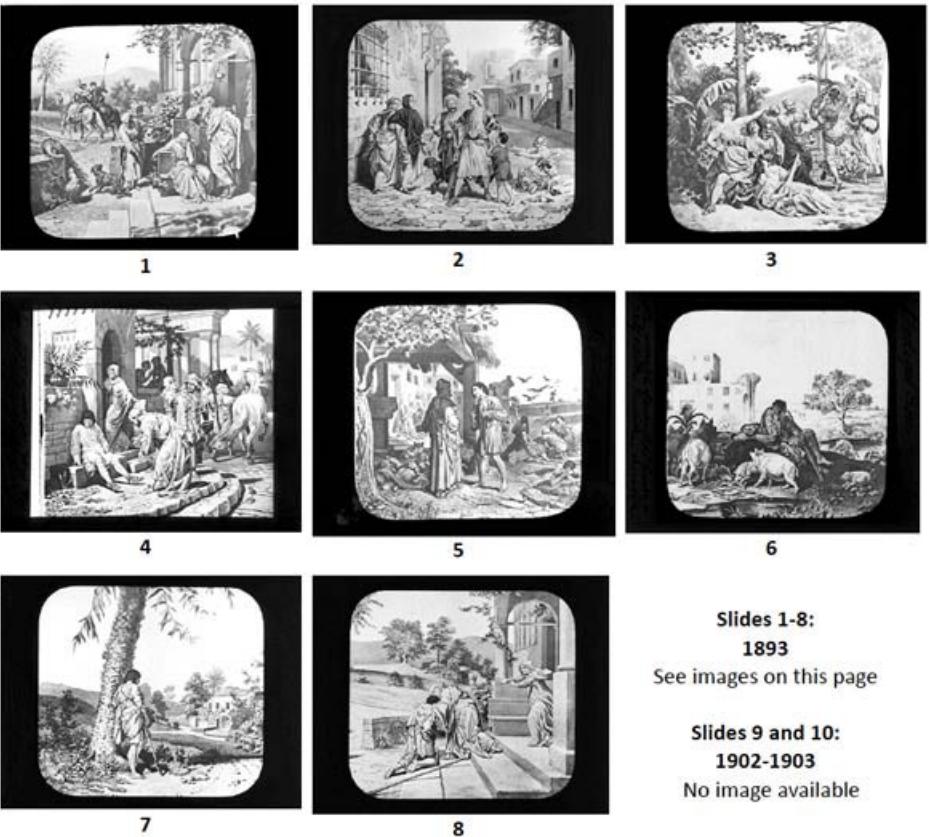
We currently have these black and white slides from The Prodigal Son set. And we are looking for the colored slides in

THE PRODIGAL SON.
(With Descriptive Reading.)
1 He journeys to a far country.
2 And there wastes his substance.
3 He lives riotously.
4 Until he has spent all.
5 He is sent into the fields to feed swine.
6 He would fain fill himself with swine husks.
7 He returns to his father's house.
8 His father has compassion upon him.
9 His return celebrated with feast and merry-making.
10 The elder brother remonstrates with his father.

order to improve our show. Any member able to help us?

Many thanks.

Sam Grosdemange (pdocmuseum.org)
Contact: samgrosdemange@gmail.com



Slides 1-8:
1893

See images on this page

Slides 9 and 10:
1902-1903

No image available

FOR SALE

From Patrick Morris
thetipplingtoad@gmail.com

Hello,

I recently rediscovered a box of Magic lantern slides. They are colored. They are from Japan dating I believe from the 1920s. Some of the boxes still have their manufacturer's label on them. These include

Eastman's Dry Plates, MA Seed Dry Plate company, and Lantern Plates for Black Tones by Defender Dry Plate Company.

I'm looking to sell them. Could you tell me the value range for things like these? I've seen them on-line for \$10-\$50 each, but few in color and none from Asia.

Thank you for any help you can give me.

Patrick Morris
Alameda CA

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly.

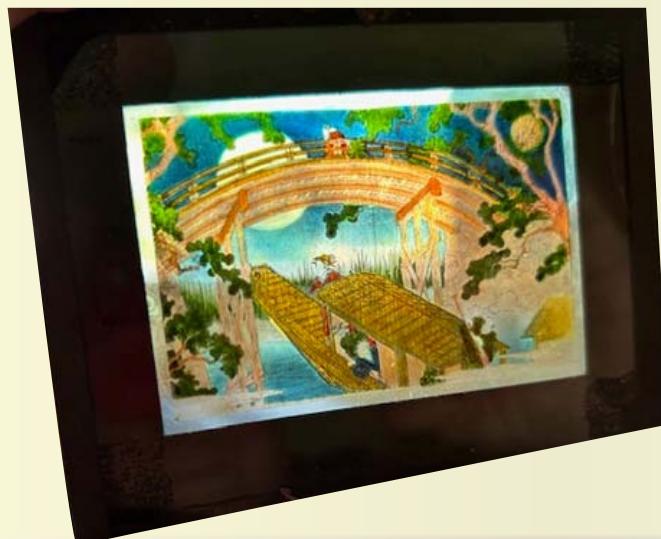
Most of the ones I've looked at don't have any notations about photographer. There are over ten boxes and I haven't gone through them all. A few do say Board of Tourist Industry Tokyo.

Japanese slides



Here's a few that I took pictures of this morning.

Thanks for your help.
Patrick Morris



From David evans

Hello Patrick

Thank you for contacting us. The Society does not do appraisals as such, but in general slides are worth whatever someone will pay for them. What we can offer is to include your slides in one of our monthly e-publications and can hope for good offers. If you could let me have some photos of the slides that would help a lot. We do have members in Japan as well as ones here who collect Asian material. If that appeals to you then we could offer them in our May e-publication. The names you mention are of course American photographic suppliers. Is there any indication of the photographer, slide titles etc?

David Evans

Trouble Identifying an Older Lantern

From West Obering

obering@comcast.net

To whom it may concern,

I recently won a Magic Lantern at a local auction house. I tried to identify it using information found online, but found almost nothing that matched. The most I could determine was it is a 4 burner acetylene lantern with a front lens marked "Darlot Paris" made in France. It has an assembly that holds two slides (one above the other) which can be individually displayed one at a time by using a crank that raises and lowers them vertically. I have never seen that configuration before. It even has a cover that blocks the light during the slide transition. Very ingenious. I will attach a few images and hope you can help me figure out when, where, and who made this contraption. Thank you,

West Obering

Mr. Evans,

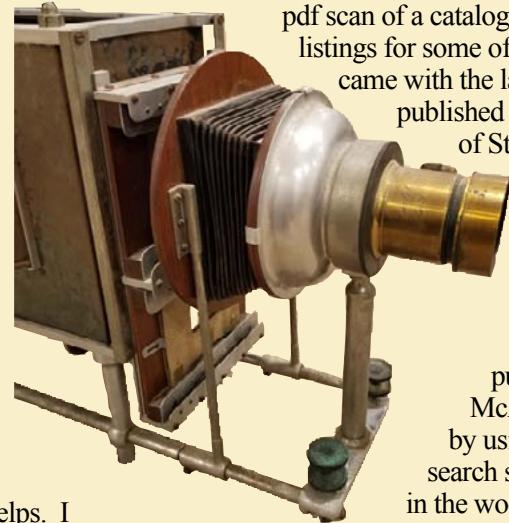
Thank you for replying so quickly. It was disappointing to hear it's just a random knock-off, but I did very much appreciate the background information you provided. I might yet find out something else about it. I also attached one other photo showing the glass slides that came with it. The two with moving images were very interesting. If I may ask two final questions – during what time frame do you think this device was built (pre-1900?), and do you have any idea of its worth given it wasn't a production model. Just wondering if I got my money's worth on my purchase.

Thank you again,



Mr. Evans,

Thank you for the information as anything helps. I was hoping it might be some type of rare prototype given how well it was machined and assembled. Regarding the slides – they're dirty, but most of that is just dust which I'll be cleaning off shortly. I noticed the lever arm was missing from the graveyard slide as well. Per your question, there was some additional writing on a few of the slides so I'll attach a few more photos so you can see them. I'll show a photo of the



slide first, then the writing on it. There was also a B&W glass slide with writing on it, so I included that as well. It will take two e-mails since there are too many photos.

If nothing else, this has been an awesome learning experience. I had no idea how much history there was involving these lanterns!

Thanks again,

David,

I don't think I'll be doing a show, but I will be cleaning it up as best I can. I don't have easy access to acetylene gas, so I will not be turning on the burners any time soon. I did find a pdf scan of a catalog on-line that had listings for some of the glass slides that came with the lantern. They were published in the "Catalogue of Stereopticons, Dissolving-View Apparatus, and Magic Lanterns, ...", dated for February, 1887.

It is an American publication for T.H. McAllister. I found it by using his name in the search since it was stamped in the wood on a couple of the slides. There are literally thousands of items listed in the publication as well as some nice descriptions of the devices you could buy to view them with. This is a link to it if you don't already have it:

continued next page

Trouble Identifying an Older Lantern continued

<https://ia802809.us.archive.org/31/items/cataloguepriceli00thmc/cataloguepriceli00thmc.pdf>

Also, I can send you a brief video clip of the slide transition mechanism in motion if you are interested in seeing it. I haven't seen any other examples that use a single one hand cranking mechanism to perform both the slide transition as well as moving a temporary cover to block the light source.

Thank you again for your help. If you happen to show photos of the lantern to anyone in the future who then seems to recognize it, please feel free to contact me.

West



From David Evans

Dear Mr Obering

Thank you for contacting us. That is an interesting lantern. It is based on the concept and design of a Metamorphoser, designed and made by W C Hughes of London in 1888. It was a way to change slides on the screen without seeing the slide move off to left or right when projecting them. Your lantern is undoubtedly not made by Hughes. I'd say it is a one-off made by an American engineer who had seen a Metamorphoser and decided to copy the idea. A T Thompson of Boston MA used French lenses on his lanterns, but the design of yours is nothing like one of theirs, in fact it is nothing like any manufacturer's lanterns that I have come across. It appears to have been masked down to 2" (35mm) slides later on but was made for regular US slides of 3 1/4" x 4". If you are thinking of lighting the acetylene burners, I'd do it outside for a first trial. I have known them produce 3 foot high flames!

That's about all I can suggest.

David Evans

Dear Mr Obering

Glad to help. Thanks too for the picture of the slides, which are also quite interesting. Moving slides are generally desirable. There is a glass and brass lever missing from the left hand church slide and the others don't look perfect, but nevertheless a nice assortment. Is the patent date the only writing on them?

The Society doesn't do valuations or appraisals, but the slides would be worth probably a couple of hundred dollars. The lantern, I would say, probably

dates from a little after 1900, but the value, as is always the case, is what someone would be prepared to pay for it, which doesn't help you a lot. It might do fairly well on eBay - maybe also a couple of hundred dollars.

Thanks again for contacting us.

I did wonder if the wood mounted ones might be McAllister - a prolific and quality slide manufacturer. I suspect the missing lever (and glass) on the churchyard slide probably had ghosts or something of the sort rising from the grave stones when the lever was operated. Pity that part is missing.

Thank you for all the pictures and details. The black & white one was obviously part of a large set of slides (at least 48) on a particular subject, but can't really say any more about it. It is British format.

The lantern could have been a prototype, but I have never come across any American lantern with that arrangement, so I still think it was made as a one off. Would be nice to know who made it, but I guess we'll never know that. If you are thinking of using it, I'd fit it up with a modern LED illuminant rather than trying to use the gas jet lamp.

Do you have plans on doing a show at some point?

Yes, I'd like to see your video of it in action. One doesn't often get the chance to see these one-offs in operation. Thank you for the offer!

Regards

Nishiki Kage-e Ikeda Gumi

From Mitsue Ikeda-Tanaka

mi3tsu2-0121e@rouge.plala.or.jp

Information about the project from “Nishiki Kage-e Ikeda Gumi”.

In 2024, “Entertainment and Traditional Culture in Old Houses-Nishiki Kage-e Project 2” will begin.

We will open with the Nishiki Kage-e Workshop on May 3rd. We are now recruiting additional New magic lantern artists.

The 2023 New magic lantern artists (all ages from 9 and 12 years old, from their 20s to their 70s) will give a short performance here. I am sure that the fun and wonder of Nishiki Kage-e will be apparent to the participants.

Below is the URL of the image of the information for the Project 2.

<https://kyu-uedakejutaku.jp/img/UMLP2024.gif>



We are truly happy that Nishiki Kagee has been able to continue to be passed down with everyone's support this year.

This year's Nishiki Kagee Ikeda Group-Ueda Family is scheduled to perform at this old folk house and at a museum in Suita City in November.

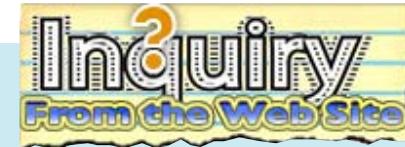
I would be happy if you could take a look.

Sincerely,

Mitsue

You can see the 2023 performance by New magic lantern artists below.

<https://youtu.be/OouNGtMlnvs?si=ZJ1zmluwngcl6Hws>



How To Repair Broken Cord

From Eldritch Oculum

info@eldritchoculum.com

Hello. I have a mechanical magic lantern slide (with a crank). Do you know of someone that repairs these? I think it just need a new cord

Thank you,

Zac

From David Evans

Hello Zac

If it is just a cord, that is, an endless one, I have used video cassette player belts with some success. Probably available on eBay. You don't need to make a knot in it of course!

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

A Big Thank You to the following:

Ron Easterday
David Evans
Sam Grosdemange
Karl Link
Patrick Morris
West Obering
Eldritch Oculum
Brian Rogers
Loren Shultz
Mitsue Ikeda-Tanaka

for contributing
to this months issue.